

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th June 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Barāhanagar	4,000	Jyaistha 1286 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
Fortnightly.				
3	"Purva-Pratidhwani"	Chittagong	.....	28th May 1879.
4	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	.....
Weekly.				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	3rd June 1879.
6	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	3rd ditto.
7	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	.....	3rd and 10th June 1879.
8	"Bardwān Sanjivānī"	Bardwān	.....
9	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	8th June 1879.
10	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	6th ditto.
11	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	7th ditto.
12	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	4th ditto.
13	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	9th ditto.
14	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	900	
15	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	235	30th May 1879.
16	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinī, Rangpore	250	5th June 1879.
17	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah	516	8th ditto.
18	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	9th ditto.
19	"Samālochak"	Ditto	.....	6th ditto.
20	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	.....
21	"Sanjivānī"	Mymensingh	.....	7th ditto.
22	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	5,500	
Tri-weekly.				
23	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Ditto	.....	7th and 10th June 1879.
Daily.				
24	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	550	6th to 12th ditto.
25	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	.....	6th and 7th ditto.
26	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	7th, 9th, and 11th June 1879.
27	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	.....	13th and 14th June 1879.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
28	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	.....	9th and 30th May 1879.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
29	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	7th June 1879.
ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.				
Daily.				
30	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader	Ditto	.....	7th to 14th June 1879.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
31	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	11th June 1879.
32	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	.....	5th ditto.
33	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	.....	9th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
34	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	13th ditto.

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 3rd, 1879.

THE *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 3rd June, makes the following comments on the treaty of Gundamak:—In consequence of the treaty, the war against Yakub Khan has

The treaty with Yakub Khan.

come to an end; but it is yet hard to tell whether this means the end of the Afghan war. Many are even still doubtful as to whether Yakub Khan will be able to fulfil all the conditions of the treaty. Considering the character of the Afghans, no one could confidently expect that they would readily recognize him as Amir. Even Yakub himself, it is said, does not consider his position free from danger; and Major Cavagnari will, therefore, take with him an armed escort. But it is hard to see what good would be done by this handful of men if a real emergency arose. We do not believe that, should the unruly Afghans prove refractory, Yakub, although he has guaranteed the personal safety of the British Resident, would be able to put them down and fulfil his promise. No one could guarantee that a turbulent and treacherous people as the Afghans would not rise in rebellion when they saw Yakub patch up a disgraceful peace with the British Government. In case of such a rebellion, it would doubtless be the duty of the latter to support him. It is for this reason, that we find ourselves unable to consider the present treaty as the termination of the Afghan war. The standard of revolt has been openly raised in Northern Afghanistan by Abdul Rahman; and if, by the terms of the treaty, the British Government be bound to support Yakub, the Afghan war will enter upon its second stage. Nor are these terms wholly satisfactory. The scientific frontier, to attain which so much blood has been shed and treasure spent, has not been yet defined. The vague and undefined nature of the conditions of the treaty will occasion troubles in the future.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 3rd, 1879.

2. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 3rd June:—The

The treaty with Yakub Khan.

advantages obtained from the Afghan war have not been commensurate with the loss of life and treasure which has been already incurred, or which is likely to take place in the future. The cessation of hostilities, however, is welcome, inasmuch as it will put a stop to further expenditure and establish good feelings with a neighbouring power. This war has brought to light the following matters:—(1) That although the greater portion of the Indian revenue is expended on the army, still in the hour of necessity, it is found in a state of utter unpreparedness. The mismanagement in the Commissariat arrangements has also been clearly shown. (2) Although there has been no battle worthy of the name fought in the course of this war, still one fact which has been made more manifest than another is that the Gurkha and Sepoy troops, if led by competent Generals, can surmount all difficulties. (3) The loyalty of the native princes and the people of India to the Paramount power has been strikingly shewn. The former voluntarily placed their troops at the disposal of the Government.

**ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
June 3rd, 1879.

3. We had never thought, says the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 3rd June, that the Cabul war would be thus

The Treaty with Yakub Khan.

and so soon brought to a termination. Different parties had expected different results from it. While the enemies of England predicted her downfall as a consequence of this war, her well-wishers expected the complete defeat of the Russians, the overthrow of the Afghans, and the destruction of their country. Although, therefore, the speedy termination of hostilities has disappointed almost all parties, still the heart of Lord Lytton is overflowing with joy. When he entered upon this war, he had not calculated the many troubles it would bring.

Many are of opinion that the present treaty will not bring any lasting peace: the British Government, it is feared, will have now the same difficulties to face as it had to contend against in the time of Shah Shuja. It is just possible that Lord Lytton and other authorities also are of this opinion. They, however, do not care what the ultimate consequences will be; what they want is a temporary remedy. Two years hence, Lord Lytton will have no connection whatever with India; as Lord Beaconsfield will have nothing to do with the prosperity of England as soon as he lays down his office. Hastiness and a love of action without regard to its ultimate consequences are the great characteristics of the English nation. The Cabul and the Zulu wars may both be traced to this disposition. The British, however, have not up to this time had to suffer on this account; but it is certain that they will have to suffer for it some day. The entrance of the British into Afghanistan will perhaps hasten a contest with Russia, lead to a disturbance of the peace or other consequences, the very reverse of those desired by them, or it may be the step for gradually bringing the whole of Asia under their sway.

4. The same paper is gratified to notice that an increasing interest is being taken in England in the affairs of this country. In the press, in Parliament, and in speeches out of Parliament, India receives a prominent mention, and the grievances of her people are dwelt upon. The more the authorities are doing injustice to India, the greater is the interest shewn by the Liberal party in her welfare; and this is a good sign. If the illegalities and oppressions committed on the people by the present administration really serve to direct the attention of the British public to their condition, the Vernacular Press Act, the Cabul war, and other equally objectionable measures will be found to have been designed for our benefit.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 3rd, 1879.

5. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 7th June, in presenting its readers with a *precis* of the treaty which has just been concluded with Yakub Khan, gives a short history of the relations of the British Government with Afghanistan since the time of Shah Shuja and Lord Auckland. Respecting the present treaty, it is observed that, although the treachery of the Afghan character is too well known to induce one to repose any faith in them, still the conditions of the treaty are so well laid down, and so fully have the people of Afghanistan been convinced of the superiority of the British arms, that it is probable that the present arrangement will prove a lasting one. Yakub Khan has not been left more power than is possessed by any one of the native princes. Should he ever take it into his head to violate this treaty, no one would be able to save him from destruction.

HINDU HITASHINI,
June 7th, 1879.

6. The *Dacca Prakash* congratulates Government upon its success in bringing the Cabul war to an honorable termination. The people are exceedingly gratified. The treaty has been advantageous. The six lakhs of annual subsidy to be paid to Yakub Khan may be raised from the territories made over to the British Government which has, in a manner, from its power over these territories brought Cabul into its own hands. The treaty has been advantageous to the people of India, inasmuch as it has put a stop to further expenditure. There is, however, reason to doubt whether the measure will be a lasting one, or whether the British Government will not soon be called upon to aid Yakub Khan against his enemies. Russia also is seeking to harass the British Government by creating troubles in the Afghan territories.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 8th, 1879.

SAHACHAR,
June 9th, 1879.

7. It is now known, says the *Sahachar*, of the 9th June, that all that has been gained by the war would have been equally attained without it. The late Amir

The Treaty with Yakub Khan.

would have made all the concessions that have been made by Yakub Khan. Whom then shall the people of India thank for the loss of life and treasure that has been incurred? The Amir alone has been a gainer by the treaty. Besides the annual subsidy of six lakhs, he will receive twelve lakhs more on account of the territories he has made over to the British Government. There has indeed been an extension of the Indian Empire, but the tribes, the charge of whose administration has been undertaken by Government, will prove a source of constant trouble to it. After deducting the expenses of administration, the balance of the revenue is to be paid to the Amir. A similar stipulation was made to the Sultan in the case of the acquisition of Cyprus by the British Government. But, in both cases, the surplus referred to will never have any existence. Like the word "prestige," "surplus" also is an empty phrase with the present Tory ministry. But while the wealthy British nation will be able to pay for the administration of Cyprus, the poverty-stricken natives of India cannot really afford to bear the costs of governing the newly acquired territories in Afghanistan. The people should make their protest in this matter heard in time.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 3rd, 1879.

8. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 3rd June, writes a long article headed "The last words of the people." We give

The License Tax.

the substance below:—The oppressions which

have been committed in connection with the License tax are past redress. The evil may be traced to the rose-colored reports which were periodically sent in to Government by its officers regarding the condition of the people. While the latter were being pinched with distress, Government was informed that an improvement had taken place in their condition. It has thus happened that the authorities do not believe that the License tax has caused them any hardship. The true state of matters, however, has since been revealed to some extent, although the wrong that has been done cannot now be undone. The people have not grown in wealth; the articles of luxury they are now found to use, and the money which is annually seen to be in their possession, but represent the stores of grain which every well-to-do person formerly possessed, and which constituted his wealth. At the present time, the practice of reserving stores of food has fallen into disuse; but if the people had, besides the articles of luxury which they now use possessed the means of purchasing food, Government would then have been warranted in its belief that their condition has really improved. Government does not feel for their hardships. Let it hear their last words:—"Groaning under the burden of taxation, we are within an inch of our lives. May the Empress of India be happy! You want money; but we have nothing to pay the License tax with. Our bodies are now laid in dust, leaving behind the torn rags and other surroundings of the funeral pyre. May the License Tax Collector never forget to carry these to his office."

BHARAT MIHIR.

9. The same paper makes the following observations upon the recent

The appointment of natives to high offices in the public service.

resolution of Government regarding the employment of natives to superior appointments in the public service:—The recent circular issued by Lord Lytton, who is a master of composition, has, instead of inspiring us with hope, rather filled us with despondency. Not once, not twice, but repeatedly has Government failed to redeem its pledge in this matter; and we cannot believe that the case will be otherwise this time. May we ask: Have the sweet assurances

which were proclaimed in 1858 from one end of the country to the other, been sufficiently made good, and have the instructions of the despatch of 1872 sent by the Secretary of State been carried out? What, again, has become of the assurances given in 1877 by Lord Lytton, the representative of the Empress of India before the public? One or two perhaps have obtained high appointments in the course of the last two years; but are we to regard this as the fulfilment of a despatch which promised many things? Those days are, however, now gone. A child may be allured and deceived by sweets; but, thanks to the British Government, India has outgrown that stage. It is now impossible to impose upon it. Who was there so stupid as not to have been able to see through this Circular of Lord Lytton? The friends of this country in Parliament have constantly urged Government to appoint natives to high appointments; and it is only with a view to drown their clamour that Lord Lytton has now resorted to this poetic expedient. Centuries ago, when ignorance was all but universal, and people could, by means of charms, be turned into obedient tools, this incoherent prattle might answer the purpose, but we do not believe that it possesses the same efficacy now. Natives, it seems, are henceforth to obtain all appointments worth Rs. 200; and this they would at all hazards, even if the sun and moon were to leave their places in the sky. This is the first pledge given by His Excellency. But read on, and you find all your hopes gone; there is nothing new noticed in the circular. The pledge at the outset raises high hopes; the concluding statement dashes them to the ground. Natives are *not* to be appointed to certain departments of the public service; and from this negative method employed in the resolution, one is to find out what the departments are wherein they may be employed. A document embodying a series of negations is not likely to be otherwise than negative in its effects. Be that as it may, it is difficult to see why Government fosters suspicion in the minds of the people regarding its own acts by first raising their hopes and then disappointing them. You may issue circulars after circulars and write minutes after minutes, but the history of the last hundred years has made the policy of Government perfectly transparent to us. The devices of Government have become intelligible; and Government could remove the profound suspicion which has now been engendered in the minds of the people by only acting up to its pledges. There is no other remedy for this dire malady of suspicion.

10. Adverting to the recent circular of Government on this subject, the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 3rd June, remarks:—Whatever other evils may have been produced by the Cabul war, it has done at least one good. Government being in need of funds the authorities have become generous towards us. As to the appointments which are henceforth to be given away to natives, this is not the first time that they have been comforted with sweet assurances. These are made use of according to the necessities of the occasion, and serve as oil over troubled waters. Similar pledges, however, were repeatedly given, and by authorities higher than Lord Lytton, but they have never been fulfilled. This time there is some chance of success, as the promise has come, not as a favor, but as a means of overcoming a difficulty which could not have been got over in any other way.

11. The same paper thinks that Sir Ashley Eden was wrong in betraying his sympathy with the indigo planters of Behar. It is just possible that this fact may have had something to do with the excesses committed by Mr. Magrath, the Magistrate of Monghyr. His Honor was already exceedingly unpopular, but the action of Mr. Magrath has increased his unpopularity;

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 3rd, 1879.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

Appointment of natives to high offices.

The case of Mr. Magrath.

while the permission granted to the offending Magistrate to go on furlough has been the crowning offence of the Government of Bengal. Sir Richard Temple would never have done this, but would have sent Mr. Magrath to jail like an ordinary offender. The case of Mr. Magrath has been productive of beneficial consequences. It has convinced the authorities of the unwisdom of entrusting large powers in the hands of the Magistrates, while it has discouraged the indigo planters to some extent.

SANJIVANI,
June 8th, 1879.

12. The cause, remarks the *Sanjivani*, of the 6th June, of the severe distress and the deep poverty which prevail in this country, is to be found in the existence of an extensive commerce with a wealthy nation like the English, in the apathetic and indolent disposition of the people, and in the Hindu family system. On the first head, the writer dwells on the evil consequences of the exportation of food-stuffs from this country. The prices have risen, and the people use articles of luxury; but the available food-supply has diminished, and hence the distress suffered by the poor.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 8th, 1879.

13. Adverting to the circular recently issued by the Government of India on this subject, the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 8th June, thus speaks of the reserving of certain classes of appointments for Europeans. Appointment of natives to high offices. The distribution of appointments made by Government reminds one of the division of prey made by the lion in the fable. A lion, a wolf, and a jackal together killed an animal, and the task of dividing the prey having been undertaken by the lion, he divided it into three shares, and pointing to one said: As I am a lion and have seized the prey, this portion is mine, the second also is mine, since I am entitled to one of the three shares. There, still, remains a third share. Now let him who is the strongest have this. Government also has followed the same policy in the distribution of appointments.

SADHARANI,
June 8th, 1879.

14. We extract the following observations from the opening editorial of the *Sadharani*, of the 8th June:—In imposing the License tax, Government gave the people clearly to understand that its proceeds were to be expended for purposes of famine-relief, and on measures for the prevention of famines which had now become of frequent recurrence. As a matter of fact, however, they have been expended like the general revenues on war and other matters. This act of political despotism has surprised many and disappointed more. A great excitement prevails in consequence. There is, however, nothing striking or unusual in the arbitrariness which marks the acts of despotism; and it is also true that, the power of our Government is not confined within proper boundaries. A doubt had, nevertheless, remained that the opinion of the majority of the Council could not be set aside; but even that has, at last, been removed. In the matter of the abolition of the cotton duties, the majority had expressed their dissent, but the Viceroy carried the measure through on his own authority. Hence it follows that practically there is no check on the arbitrariness of either the Government or the Governor-General. It is deeply to be regretted that a Government, so powerful and possessed of such vast resources as ours, and which could easily impose a tax without being under the necessity of assigning a reason for its action, should voluntarily and deliberately make a promise and then shortly after set it aside. Natives as well as Europeans all regret this.

SADHARANI.

15. The following is the translation of a song which appears in this paper on the subject of the License tax. It is set to a popular tune.

The License Tax. A song.

(Government) had said that, with the proceeds of the License tax, the people would be supplied with food; that canals would be excavated; embankments made and the poor fed.

But the people feared that Peter would be robbed to pay Paul; that the process of collecting the tax would prove a doubly harassing one and grind them to dust; and that the relief promised would be as effective as the expiation performed by him who killed a cow, and afterwards made a gift of shoes manufactured from its hide.

But everything is made clear, now that the animal is no more; the promise of the gift was only a pretence, and has now vanished.

The monster License now seats himself firmly to suck dry its blood (the blood of the poor,) the bones are chewed and the flesh is fried into mince-meat and the skin goes to make the war drums used in the Cabul war.

16. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 9th June, refers to the recent speech of Mr. Yule, the President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and observes that the

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 9th, 1879.

The License Tax.

License tax has occasioned considerable hardship and oppressions in the mofussil. The people of this country are exceedingly poor; and to have imposed upon them a tax for the purpose of providing for famines, which might take place in future, was, at the outset, felt to be a hardship. They, however, submitted to it, seeing that famines were no longer unusual occurrences. The proceeds of the new tax have been expended for purposes other than those of famine relief. In writing of the oppressions committed in this connection, the Editor describes one of the cases referred to by the *Sádháraní*.

17. The same paper writes a long article on the inexperience of Additional Judges. Being mostly raised to

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

Appeals before Additional Judges.

the Judgeship while yet unacquainted with judicial work, and possessed of only a little experience obtained in the executive line, they commit ludicrous mistakes in their new office, and often become the laughing-stock of the pleaders who practise before them. They are empowered to hear appeals from the decisions of the experienced Subordinate Judges and of moonsifs who are better judicial officers and possess more knowledge of law than they. The consequence is, that the object of appeal is not attained under this arrangement, as instead of interfering with the decision of the court of first instance, the Additional Judge often deems it more expedient and safer to let it stand. In conclusion, the Editor would ask Government not to entrust them with the task of hearing appeals until they shall have acquired sufficient experience for it.

18. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 9th June, on the recent

SAHACHAR,
June 9th, 1879.

Lord Cranbrook on Indian affairs.

speech of Lord Cranbrook on India:—As far as wishes are concerned, we freely admit, that whether it be the Conservatives, or the Liberals, the present or any other Government, all desire the good of this country. It is, however, to be regretted that in carrying out those intentions into practice, consequences not unoften follow which were not expected; and it is not unoften that what Lord Beaconsfield's party regard as "Indian interests" is construed in another light by the Liberals and the public generally. We may refer to the abolition of the cotton duties, the lowering of the limit of age required of the Civil Service candidates, and other measures by way of illustration. In this article, the writer asks Government to extend an impartial treatment to both Natives and Europeans, to seek to get rid of the influence of Manchester; and regarding the finances, to make a reduction of expenditure by more largely appointing natives to the public service, than has hitherto been the case.

SAHACHAR,
June 9th, 1879.

19. The same paper notices the oppressions that are being committed in this connection in the Suburbs of Calcutta. The License Tax in the Suburbs of Calcutta. The Municipal Office presents the appearance of a zemindar's cutcherry. Without serving any preliminary notice, the collectors are at once taking out warrants against the assesseees. Fines and peon fees are levied in almost every case. A poor woman, who obtains her livelihood by selling victuals, and earns no more than four rupees a month, has been charged at two rupees for the tax and fined one rupee, besides being required to pay six annas as peon's fee. A wandering fakir has been similarly assessed with the License tax. But will the impost be a permanent one? There are oppressions everywhere. A famine would be preferable to this harrassing tax. It behoves Government to abolish it.

SAHACHAR.

20. The same paper, which referred to the case of Mr. Magrath, in one of its previous issues, now takes up a case in which Mr. Grant, the Sessions Judge of Hooghly, illegally enhanced on appeal the sentence of imprisonment which had been passed on three persons, by the Magistrate of Hooghly (*sic*). This was done in virtue of the power vested in the appellate courts by the Criminal Procedure Code. Fortunately, the High Court, which is justly looked upon by the people as the guardian of their life and liberty, has rectified the wrong. Government is besought to use means for the prevention of these repeated instances of injustice perpetrated in the mofussil.

FAMINE.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 3rd, 1879.

21. We extract the following from the opening editorial of the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 3rd June, headed the "Present miserable condition of the country." From the Himalayas to Cape Comorin, the whole country is paralyzed with famine, scarcity, and poverty. The people have borne as much as they could bear; but their sufferings are now past endurance. The distress is not confined to either one province or one people, the whole country and all the different peoples that inhabit it are crying in despair. The two hundred millions of India's sons are depressed and despondent through anxiety and lack of food. With all her disadvantages, the country never formerly suffered from want; and with its surplus stores always fed other nations. All that, however, has now changed. Famines now occur almost every year. The Orissa famine was followed by a terrible one in Behar. A storm-wave came in its wake, and brought destruction on three of the grain-producing districts of Bengal. The Imperial Assemblage, which was soon after held at Delhi, and the sweet assurances of Lord Lytton revived our drooping spirits, and we expected great results. But the Madras famine blasted all our hopes as effectually as it ruined the credit of India. In affording relief to the famine-stricken, the Exchequer became empty. The License tax was imposed to replenish it. The measure was not opposed; nay, its necessity was recognized, although the condition of the people was not such as would enable them to pay the impost. Unlucky India, however, was not to see prosperity. At the Imperial Assemblage, Lord Lytton, it would seem, invited the Amir of Cabul only that he might sow the seeds of an Afghan war; a war, which was to be quenched with the life-blood of the people sucked dry in the form of the License tax. His Excellency went further. To promote the interests of English merchants, he abolished the cotton duties, and made the condition of the finances worse than before. The utmost process of screwing that has been resorted to has brought the country to its present pass. Famine has appeared even in Cashmere and

Assam, while the condition of Eastern Bengal is such that one cannot contemplate it without anxiety. The people of this country are famous for their loyalty and law-abiding disposition; but the continuance of the distress and an impression which has found place in the minds of the uneducated, that it is all brought about by the sins of the rulers, have now impaired this feeling. Crimes are consequently on the increase. The dacoities at Puna suggest many reflections. It has now become greatly necessary to improve the internal condition of the country, and use such means as will lead to an increase of wealth. The policy which guides the work of administration and commerce at the present time must be changed. The country cannot afford to pay for the present expensive administration.

22. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 7th June, dwells on the severity of distress in places in the neighbourhood of Dacca. The reports received from Manikganj disclose a really sad state of things. Many are obliged to go without food for two or three days; and even then they can but with difficulty procure a meal of herbs and vegetables. Desertions of children by their parents have become common. The authorities and the zemindars are earnestly besought to open relief operations.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
June 7th, 1879.

23. Writing on the same subject, the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 8th June, states that at Dacca rice sells at 8 seers the rupee. The distress is severe. Government, from Lord Lytton downwards, is busy with high political matters and measures of taxation, and has no leisure to attend to the complaints of the poor caused by the scarcity.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 8th, 1879.

LOCAL.

24. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 3rd June, dwells on the severity of the distress in the sub-division of Tangail. Food-grains are selling at famine rates; they are not even always procurable. One or two deaths have already taken place from starvation.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 3rd, 1879.

25. A correspondent of the same paper notices the existence of great distress in Pingna. Rice sells at Rs. 5 a maund. The poor are starving. Many, through desperation, have been led to rob others more fortunate of their food.

BHARAT MIHIR.

26. Another writing to this paper from Sujapore, in Dinagepore, notices the prevalence of robberies, of cholera, and a cattle-plague in that place, and asks the authorities to attend to the matter.

BHARAT MIHIR.

27. Another correspondent of the same paper states that the poor in Manikganj are sorely pinched with distress. A great famine is raging there; and dacoities are occasionally taking place.

BHARAT MIHIR.

28. The License Tax, remarks the *Sadharani*, of the 8th June, is causing dreadful hardships to the poor. The fines imposed and levied are enormous, and are aggravating their distress. The Editor narrates seven cases, which have all taken place in Hooghly and Chinsura, of inequitable assessments with this tax; and asks the attention of the local Government to the subject.

SADHARANI,
June 8th, 1879.

29. A correspondent of the *Navavibhakar*, of the 9th June, writing from Shiligoree on the Northern Bengal State Railway, states that, on the 31st May last, the mail train, which leaves that station exactly at 8 P.M., started at five minutes

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 9th, 1879.

after the appointed time; and the reason of this delay was that a European gentleman named Mr. Fing (*sic.*) with his wife came up, after the train had started, and asked the station master to stop it for at least five minutes, in order to enable him and his wife to purchase their tickets. And this was done. But would the same favour, it is asked, have been extended to a native, even had he been ten times more respectable than the person referred to above?

MISCELLANEOUS.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 9th, 1879.

30. We give the substance of an article in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 9th June, headed "Famines and the Lower classes":—There is this difference observable between famines of former times, and those which have taken place in late years, that whereas formerly it was only one or more articles which sold at high rates, it is now every food-stuff that is high-priced. This is due to the facilities of communication which exist at the present time, and the expansion of commerce which has taken place under the fostering care of the British Government. Articles are indeed procurable; but prices are high. The latter circumstance is, in some measure, due to taxation. The condition of the lower classes, however, shows some sign of improvement. Expansion of commerce and high prices have brought money into the pockets of the agriculturists. Certain of the small trades also share in this prosperity. It is, however, otherwise with the manufacturing and artizan classes, whose condition has deteriorated. Most of them have given up the professions of their ancestors and are betaking themselves to new fields of labour. The weaver class suffers the most. As to the labourers, they indeed now earn higher wages than formerly, but owing to the rise, which has taken place in the prices of articles, their status is stationary.

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BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 14th June 1879.